

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 874

By Gant

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former U.S. Senator Bob Dole.

WHEREAS, former U.S. Senator and 1996 Republican nominee for president, Robert Joseph "Bob" Dole was born on July 22, 1923, in Russell, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dole came from humble beginnings; his father sold dairy products, and his mother was a traveling saleswoman specializing in sewing machines and other products; and

WHEREAS, prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army, Senator Dole attended the University of Kansas, where he played basketball and football, ran track, and was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, a member of this nation's Greatest Generation, Bob Dole served valiantly as a member of the United States Army during World War II and became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division; he was deployed to Italy in 1944; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, while attempting to rescue an army radioman, Senator Dole was seriously wounded in a German machine gun attack; his injuries led to the loss of a kidney, a shattered right shoulder, and damage to his neck and spine; and

WHEREAS, his recuperation from almost total paralysis took nearly four years, and, despite three major operations, he was left without the use of his right arm and hand; and

WHEREAS, medically discharged from the Army as a captain in 1947, Bob Dole was decorated three times for his heroism, receiving two Purple Hearts for his injuries and the Bronze Star with Combat "V" Device for valor for his attempt to assist the downed radioman; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dole first entered politics after he returned to school in Kansas in the 1950s, winning a seat for the Kansas state legislature as a Republican; after graduating with

a law degree from Washburn Municipal University in Topeka, Kansas, he became County Attorney of Russell County, Kansas, in 1952; and

WHEREAS, after launching a successful run for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1960, Bob Dole served as a member of the House from 1961 to 1969; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and repeatedly won reelection to that august body until he retired in 1996; and

WHEREAS, he also served as chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1971 to 1973 and was President Gerald Ford's running mate in the 1976 presidential election; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Bob Dole, who was known as a pragmatic conservative, became leader of his party in the Senate; he twice served as majority leader, from 1984 to 1986 and from 1994 to 1996, and he previously held the record as the longest-serving Republican leader; and

WHEREAS, committed to equal opportunity for all, he appointed the Senate's first female chief of staff as well as the first woman to serve as Secretary of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dole was the Republican nominee in the 1996 U.S. Presidential Election; and

WHEREAS, after leaving public office, Bob Dole worked for a law firm in Washington, D.C., and frequently appeared on television as a political commentator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dole was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton on January 17, 1997, for service to his country in the military and in his political career; his numerous honors also include the Presidential Citizens Medal, which was presented by President Ronald Reagan on January 18, 1989, and the Congressional Gold Medal, as only the eighth senator to be so honored; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dole's politics were characterized by a commitment to the disadvantaged, whether it was spearheading the passage of the landmark 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act or combating hunger and poverty; and

WHEREAS, opened in July 2003, the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, housed on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, was established to bring bipartisanship back to politics; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dole served as national chairman of the World War II Memorial Campaign, which raised more than \$170 million for the building of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., which opened to the public in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bob Dole evinced an unwavering devotion to duty throughout his long public life, and it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor the memory of this esteemed statesman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the life and honor the memory of Robert Joseph Dole, paying tribute to his distinguished service to our nation as a veteran and as a United States Senator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.